(Washington, DC)— Senator Herb Kohl and Congresswoman Gwen Moore obtained $12 million in research and development funds for DRS Power & Control Technologies, Inc., and an additional $1 million for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the FY2007 Defense Appropriations bill. DRS Technologies has a manufacturing plant that employs 380 Milwaukee-area residents and provides leading edge products and services to defense, government intelligence agencies, and commercial customers. UW-M employs over 3,300 residents of the Milwaukee area.

"Milwaukee is home to some solid defense research and development, and these projects are examples of how it contributes to a faster, safer and more adaptable military. The Department of Defense is increasingly taking notice of the innovative work happening in our state," Senator Kohl said.

“The benefits of this federal funding are widespread,” said Congresswoman Moore. “Initially, the funding makes possible high-tech research, employing some of Wisconsin’s brightest minds. The success of this research translates into more local manufacturing jobs for the Milwaukee area workforce. Lastly, the products created help keep America’s troops safer and lead injured soldiers to a more complete recovery.”

Incorporated in 1968, DRS's high-technology products and services are used by all branches of the U.S. military, major aerospace and defense prime contractors, government intelligence agencies, and industrial markets. The Defense Appropriations bill has allotted $11 million in federal funding to enable DRS to continue developing its 4th generation permanent magnet motor (PMM), which the Navy is seeking because it will be less than half the weight of its first model and function with twice the torque density of the propulsion motor currently envisioned for the DDX, the Navy's next generation surface combatant ship. Having worked with the Navy to build the first three generations of magnetic electrical drives, DRS’ research will assist the Navy in its pursuit of all-electric surface combat ships, which are more efficient and provide increased survivability, fuel efficiency, and reduced manpower.

DRS will also receive $1 million for its revolutionary Universal Solid-State Circuit Breaker (USSB). The USSB uses high power semiconductors that eliminate the mechanical interfacing problems typically found in older circuit breakers, enabling them to automatically sense and resolve ship system power failures in a matter of mere seconds. The versatile USSB can be used for both DC and AC power of varying frequencies and combines new technology—solid-state interruption—with a mechanical switch. This improvement provides for

a faster response to changes in an electrical system and isolates malfunctions that require maintenance. Further, the USSB is significantly lighter than the Navy's current circuit breakers, which frees ship weight for fuel or other supplies and increases operational capability per ton.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will receive $1 million in federal funding for its partnership with the Tank Automotive Research, Development, and Engineering Center, the National Automotive Center, and over twenty Wisconsin foundries for research on advanced and rapid manufacture of lightweight materials and metals for military applications. The aim of their research is to enable the U.S. Army to rapidly manufacture components for Army tanks, trucks, and other vehicles as well for customized bone replacement and tissue scaffolds for injured soldiers in mobile environments using lightweight materials. These technologies will enhance the mobility and readiness of the Army and could also benefit the civilian sector, which would eventually adapt many of these technologies for public use. The foundry industry plays a significant role in Wisconsin's economy, employing 21,000 persons in nearly 150 different foundries statewide. Of these foundries, 52 are capable of producing aluminum castings. Approximately 1.7 million tons of castings with a value of $3.5 billion are produced annually in Wisconsin. The success of these foundries, which are facing difficulties due to offshore competition, could be revitalized through the proposed research.

The House version of the Defense Appropriations bill passed in June, and was reconciled in conference with the Senate version. The final version passed yesterday in the House, is expected to pass the Senate next week, and will then go to the President's desk for signature.

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